

Application No.: 10/696,845

Amendment and Response dated November 29, 2007

Reply to Final Office Action of August, 31, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

 a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

 an expandable prosthesis having first and second ends, means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and

 a visual marker having a first color and overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

wherein the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis has a second color with the first color of the visual marker being visually distinct from the second color of the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis.

Claim 2. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes releasing means operable from the proximal extremity of the flexible elongate member.

Claim 3. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

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Claim 4. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending around the prosthesis.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is a colored marker looped around the thread and bound to the prosthesis by the thread.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein a portion of the thread is tightly spaced loops around the prosthesis to form the visual marker.

Claim 8. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis is a stent.

Claim 9. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the prosthesis has a first length when secured to the flexible elongate member and a second length different from the first length when released from the flexible elongate member.

Claim 10. (Previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the visual marker is secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis a distance from one of the first and second ends of the prosthesis equal to the second length to facilitate desired placement of the prosthesis in the cavity.

Claim 11. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the prosthesis foreshortens during release from the flexible elongate member, the second length being shorter than the first length so as to reflect such foreshortening.

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Claim 12. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the visual marker is secured to the prosthesis.

Claim 13. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

Claim 14. (Original): The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes a thread for crocheting the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member, the thread being secured to the colored band so that upon pulling the thread to release the prosthesis the colored band is pulled off the prosthesis and onto the flexible elongate member.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein the visual marker is a bioabsorbable material extending around a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the bioabsorbable material is a gelatin.

Claims 18-22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently amended): An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

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an expandable prosthesis having a length and first and second ends, means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member extending along substantially the entire length of the prosthesis in a repeating pattern for and

a visual marker having a first color and overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends and being capable of being seen by the operator in the field of view secured to one of the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and the prosthesis for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

wherein the means for releaseably securing the prosthesis has a second color with the first color of the visual marker being visually distinct from the second color of the repeating pattern of the means for releaseably securing.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 26. (Previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

Claim 27. (Previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the means for releaseably securing includes crocheted material extending along at least a portion of the length of the prosthesis.

Claim 28. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the crocheted material includes a thread having a plurality of loops extending in the repeating pattern around the

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prosthesis, a portion of the thread being tightly spaced loops different from the repeating pattern to form the visual marker.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the visual marker is an additional thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 30. (Currently amended): An apparatus for use by an operator in a cavity of a mammalian body with a scope having a distal face providing a field of view comprising:

a flexible elongate member having a distal extremity adapted for extending into the cavity and a proximal extremity accessible from outside of the mammalian body when the distal extremity is disposed in the cavity,

an expandable prosthesis,

means for releaseably securing the prosthesis to the distal extremity of the flexible elongate member and

a visual marker having a first color and capable of being seen by the operator under direct visualization overlying the prosthesis and distinct from the means for releaseably securing for facilitating placement of the prosthesis in the mammalian body,

wherein the means for releaseably securing for facilitating placement of the prosthesis has a second color visually distinct from the first color of the visual marker.

Claim 31. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread.

Claim 32. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a colored thread having tightly spaced loops along a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 33. (Previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker includes a colored band extending around the prosthesis.

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Claim 34. (Withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the visual marker is a thread having tightly spaced loops around a portion of the prosthesis.

Claim 35. (Previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the expandable prosthesis has first and second ends, the visual marker overlying the prosthesis intermediate the first and second ends.